466
461 In the East China Region, labor emulation drives were accelerated in 1951 after the Communists had intervened in the Korean war. In the early phases, the Communists urged workers to lengthen their working day. In one case in an iron and steel factory in Kiangsu, the men worked sixteen hours a day.[20] The ten-hour working day became the rule in Shanghai, although the Communist labor law stipulated an eight-hour working day. As a result of the increase of working hours and an acceleration of production, industrial accidents and sick leave became more frequent. In July 1952, one-fourth of the workers of the No. 6 Iron and Steel Works in Shanghai asked for leave because of illness after an intensive "labor emulation" [845] drive.[21] In a cotton textile factory in Tsingtao, in the period January to June, 1952, more than half of the women workers who were pregnant suffered miscarriages.[22]

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18. "Rationalization proposals" are proposals submitted by workers to management to increase production through improved techniques, reduced costs of production, and the more efficient use of manpower. See Practical Dictionary of Economic Terms, pp. 9,016-17.

19. The campaign to popularize "advanced methods of work" corresponds to Stahkanovism in Russia as a means of increasing the efficiency of workers by popularizing the efficient methods used by "model" workers; see ibid., p. 9,057.

20. People's China, December 14, 1952, p. 5. p.3

21. Liberation Daily, Shanghai, 8/12/52,

22. China Weekly, Jan. 19, 1953, pp. 7-8.